

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

NIC-01 DRC-01 /085 W

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R 170719Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9319

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN STUDENT ALLIANCE

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 16953 (1973)

(B) TOKYO 14301 (1973)

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR EARLIER REQUEST (REF A), WE HAVE OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE GOJ OFFICIAL. JAPAN STUDENT ALLIANCE (NIHON GAKUSEI DOMEI) IS NATIONALISTIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN 1966 AS COUNTERFORCE AGAINST LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS. SHIGEO MIURA, WASEDA UNIVERSITY, IS PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERSHIP IS APPROXIMATELY 1,000 (NOT 100,000 AS REPORTED IN BANGKOK PRESS). MEMBERSHIP IS SCATTERED AMONG SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES AND IS DIVIDED INTO NUMBER OF FACTIONS, EACH CONTENDING FOR LEADERSHIP. IN RECENT YEARS, STUDENT ALLIANCE HAS EXPERIENCED SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FROM AMONG ENTERING UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN WHO ARE NOT ATTRACTED BY ITS RIGHT-WING ORIENTATION.

2. SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE OKINAWA REVERSION, STUDENT ALLIANCE GAINED BRIEF BIT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION WHEN ONE OF ITS MEMBERS CLIMBED TREE INSIDE US MARINE BASE IN OKINAWA AND ATTACHED JAPANESE FLAG. WHEN DEMONSTRATOR REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS PERCH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARINES CUT DOWN TREE, AND HE WAS INJURED IN FALL TO GROUND.

STUDENT ALLIANCE DELEGATION PROTESTED AT EMBASSY, AND
INCIDENT RECEIVED SOME PLAY IN PRESS.

3. COMMENT: JAPAN STUDENT ALLIANCE APPEARS TO BE ONE OF
MANY SIMILAR RAG TAG STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT)
WHICH COME AND GO ON JAPANESE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES. ITS BANGKOK
REP HAS OBVIOUSLY INFLATED ITS IMPORTANCE TO GAIN ENTREE TO THAI
STUDENT LEADERS. IT SEEMS LIKELY HIS ACTIVITIES IN BANGKOK HAVE
BEEN AIMED PRIMARILY AT HELPING STUDENT ALLIANCE PRODUCE A CAUSE
AROUND WHICH ITS MEMBERS MIGHT RALLY AND WHICH MIGHT HELP ATTRACT
NEW MEMBERS. IN ANY CASE, JAPAN STUDENT ALLIANCE CERTAINLY GETS
MORE PRESS ATTENTION IN BANGKOK THAN IN TOKYO.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALISM, STUDENT GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO00666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740133/aaaabfnj.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BANGKOK 16953 (1973)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN STUDENT ALLIANCE
TAGS: PFOR, JA
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005